

Sundance Trail Entrance to Dark Canyon

The Sundance Trail can be reached from Utah State Highway 95 (U-95) by a series of dirt roads. Although it is generally passable by car, these roads may at times require a vehicle with up to six inches of clearance. Roads may be muddy/impassable during and after rain.

1. From the turnoff to Natural Bridges National Monument, travel west on U-95 for approximately 35 miles to the sign marking the Glen Canyon National Recreation Area boundary. Drive about 1.4 miles further on U-95 and turn right onto the first dirt road after the White Canyon bridge (just before milepost 53 on U-95). After you turn, you will see the San Juan County (SJC) road 2731 signpost.

Travel five miles on 2731 to a Y-intersection with SJC 2081. Turn right on 2081.

2. If coming from Lake Powell on U-95, travel about a mile east from the Hite Marina turnoff. Turn left onto a dirt road directly across from milepost 49. This road is marked SJC 2081. Travel about four miles to a Y-intersection with SJC 2731. Stay on 2081.

This is where the two routes meet, so from either direction, after about 3.4 miles from this intersection, there will be a Y-intersection where you do not turn, but the road becomes SJC 256.

Stay on 256 for about 3.5 miles until you see a wooden BLM sign for the Sundance Trailhead. Continue to the parking lot. Walk the two track from the parking lot to the trailhead and to the edge of the canyon. From here, the trail descends to a 50% talus slope and 1,120 vertical feet into Dark Canyon.

This is a strenuous hike!